MONTEREY NEWS

May 2014
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The Town

by Susan Gallant

Budget Issues

Fire Department

Shawn Tryon, Monterey's fire chief, came to the March 31 Select Board discuss the proposed cuts made to his department's budget. According to Shawn, a minimum of $28,000 is needed for training. A budget allocation of only $25,000 is $3,000 short of the minimum needed for training. Shawn is asking the board to increase his department's budget to $30,000—a decrease of $6,000 from his original request. Shawn pointed out that there is no cap on the number of firefighters allowed to join the department, and all those interested in becoming firefighters are encouraged to do so, which would add to the cost of training.

The board assured Shawn that his department was not being singled out and that all town departments were feeling the pinch of the 2015 budgetary constraints. After further discussion the Select Board unanimously approved a $3,000 increase to the Fire Department's compensation and education training budget.

Police Department

Gareth Backhaus, Monterey's police chief, spoke with the Select Board about his sergeant's salary. He prefaced his statements by saying that he has worked long and hard to get his department as stable as it is today, and losing Mike Johnson over a salary issue would be a huge setback for him as well as for Monterey. Gareth also noted that when the sergeant's position became salaried, it saved the town about $6,000 a year in overtime.

The chief acknowledged that finances are tight this year, and, as a solution, he's offered to lower his expenses by $5,000

Downtown Monterey, circa 1920 (photo courtesy Barbara Swann and Barbara Tryon, Monterey Historical Society)

so that Sergeant Johnson can receive the $5,000 increase he had been promised.

After a bit of discussion, the Select Board decided to raise the sergeant's salary by $5,000 and to level fund police expenses.

Employee Compensation

In yet another effort to trim the budget wherever possible, the Select Board agreed that only full-time employees would receive a 2 percent cost of living increase. Exceptions to that decision were made for the town clerk, who has done a heroic job and spent considerable time getting her office in order. Since the assistant town clerk's salary will be decreased by $5,400, it would be possible to increase the town clerk's salary by $1,000.

This increase to the town clerk's salary would have the clerk earning more than the town's tax collector, who has been in that position for many years and has spent considerably more time on the job this year helping set the tax rate. To reconcile this issue and to acknowledge the amount of time she's put into dealing with some of this year's financial crises, the Select Board agreed to increase the tax collector's salary by $1,078. To make sure that the town's part-time and elected positions aren't being short changed, their salaries will be compared to comparable positions in nearby towns, and attempts will be made to adjust salaries accordingly.

Using Free Cash to Lower Tax Rate

Members of the Select Board have some differences of opinion about using free cash to lower the tax rate. Muriel Lazzarini is against using any free cash for this purpose, while Wayne Burkhart and Scott Jenssen feel that some should be used. We currently have $317,000 in certified free cash. In the March 31 Select Board meeting Wayne recommended using $100,000 of free cash to reduce the tax rate, while Scott recommended $50,000, and Muriel $0. Finance Committee member Don Clawson said that ideally we would like to have about a $200,000 balance in free cash to use. Assessor Bob Lazzarini asked why there was such a concern with lowering the tax rate by using free cash when we have the tenth lowest tax rate in Massachusetts. After calculating several different scenarios, the Select Board voted 2 to 1, with Muriel voting no, to use $75,000 of free cash to lower the tax rate. Article 16 on the May 3 town meeting warrant asks for voters' approval to do so.

At the April meeting, the Select Board reviewed updated levy limits and budget comparison spreadsheets provided by Barbara Gauthier, which show that we currently have an excess levy of approximately $85,000 (though some of the numbers may change).

Town Finances

Town department heads as well as individual employees have been speaking with the Select Board over the past months about problems with the way Monterey's finances are being managed by the treasurer and accountant, both of whom are not only new to their jobs but are also working in municipal finance for the first time. The situation came to a head on April 14 when Maynard Forbes, highway department director, Gareth Backhaus, chief of police, and Mari Enoch, town tax collector, met with the Select Board to speak of the most recent difficulties they've been having.

Maynard began by reporting that he's been fielding calls from companies that haven't been getting paid. Gareth added that his pager was shut off because that bill hadn't been paid. Other examples included unpaid telephone and electrical bills. Both men agreed that running after people to track unpaid invoices is not appropriate use of their time. Mari reported that the treasurer's numbers have yet to be reconciled with those of the tax collector's, another ongoing issue that made setting the tax rate "a horrible nightmare." Yet,

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when the treasurer has been asked about the progress being made on reconciling bank statements, the response was, "Reconciling is going great!"

In an effort to get a handle on the problems and to deal with them head on, an additional Select Board meeting was held on April 24. In attendance were Select Board members Muriel Lazzarini, Wayne Burkhart, and Scott Jenssen, town accountant Brendan Fletcher, treasurer Bethany Mielke, former treasurer Pat Mielke, former town accountant Barbara Gauthier, Gareth Backhaus, Maynard Forbes, and Don Clawson.

Brendan reported that monthly reports will be going out, and Bethany provided updates on the bank accounts, which are all up to date. The meeting was a prime opportunity to communicate about problems and concerns that have been recurring throughout the year. Barbara Gauthier will continue to work with Brendan until he's up to speed, and Pat Mielke, now that she's back from Florida, will be able to work more closely with Bethany. Pat also asked for more patience since Bethany is still learning the job. The Select Board promised to provide as much help as needed for Bethany, and after more conversations about procedures for getting paychecks out and withholding issues, the meeting was adjourned.

Visitors from Iraq, Iran, and Bulgaria visited Monterey in early April. They explored the library and the Knox Gallery to see the paintings of their teacher, Susan Taff (center). Snilld, the Icelandic horse at Kinallen Farm, was a warm hostess, and Susan Sellew allowed the visitors to view the latest kids at Rawson Brook Farm.

Employee Compensation Advisory Committee

At their March 31 meeting, the Select Board accepted the disclosure by non-elected municipal employee of financial interest and determination by appointing authority as required by Massachusetts General Law that allows Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe to serve on the ECAC without any conflict of interest.

Dog Park Laid to Rest

Last month, Gene Bounous met with the select board to offer a few acres of his land to be used as a town dog park. This undoubtedly generous offer came with a significant caveat: a neighbor who abuts the land would most likely oppose the project. So when Julio Rodriguez and Pat Salomon came in to request town funds for creating a fenced-in area for dogs on the Bounous property, they were told of the issues with the abutter and that money was particularly tight this year, leaving no funds available for such an undertaking.

Julio had been working on establishing a dog park in Monterey for more than a year, first at a location near the firehouse pavilion, then on a piece of land somewhere on Gould Farm. But with Gould Farm not responding to his inquiries, and now with the obstacles that accompany the Bounous property, Julio has come to the realization that a dog park in Monterey may not be in the cards, at least for the foreseeable future.

Fortunately, Julio's attendance at the March 31 meeting was not a complete waste of time. The Select Board unanimously approved a motion to appoint him to the Veteran's Memorial Committee for a two-year term.

MontereyFest

Early on in the 2015 budget talks, the Select Board had agreed that Monterey's financial situation made it virtually impossible to fund nonessential projects. Scott Jenssen wanted to revisit that topic regarding >

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funds for MontereyFest. Scott offered the possibility of requesting additional funds from the Parks Department at Town Meeting. Muriel Lazzarini pointed out that MontereyFest organizers need to follow the example set by the community center, which has raised significant amounts of money to fund the center's renovations.

The Select Board also agreed that, in the future, if the town were to help fund MontereyFest, the event would need more structure, as well as town involvement to prevent the problems that arose during MontereyFest 2013. What's more, MontereyFest 2013 is refusing to pay an outstanding bill of $37.48 that it owes the town. And, of the two lakes in town, only Lake Garfield continually requests funds for its celebration, whereas Lake Buel never asks the town to sponsor its events. Given the past problems, it might be wise for Monterey to involve itself only in town-sponsored or supervised activities.
—Additional reporting this month by Will Marsh, from Select Board minutes

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Town Meeting Warrant Informational Meeting

The purpose of the April 25 meeting was to give Monterey residents an opportunity to ask questions of or request clarification from the Finance Committee on any of the items on the fiscal-year 2015 warrant prior to the Annual Town Meeting, on Saturday, May 3.

All three members of the Finance Committee, Stan Ross, Dan Moriarty, and Don Clawson were present, with Stan at the helm. Stan explained that to keep the meeting on point, he would read off warrant headings, asking for questions pertaining to any of the line items within that particular section. Once questions regarding a section were discussed, he would then move on to the next section of the warrant.

The first question, under General Government, asked for an explanation of the $1,000 on line item 153 (Municipal Lighting Plant Assessment). Larry Klein, who is a member of Wired West's advisory council, explained that Wired West is a volunteer-run organization that's working to make high-speed internet service available to people living in rural areas— what's commonly referred to as the last mile. Because the organization is run by volunteers, it occasionally must ask the 43 towns it serves to contribute to its operating expenses.

Next, a question was asked about line item 141, specifically why the assessors' clerk had not received a pay raise. Muriel Lazzarini, Select Board chair, explained that finances were particularly tight this year, and the Select Board decided that only full-time employees would receive a two percent cost-of-living increase. There were, however, a few exceptions (see Town Report, "Budget Issues" in this issue). Some voiced concern that this salary-related decision seemed arbitrary. One person commented that employees should be the last ones to have their salaries affected by budgetary constraints. To which Muriel replied, "Believe me, they were."

There was additional discussion about the increase in police officer salaries that had begun the previous year. The increases were the result of comparing salaries of police officers in neighboring towns similar to ours. That comparative study revealed that our officers were significantly underpaid.

Next, Stan moved on to discuss the special articles, explaining that the committee could only address those articles containing the words "to raise and appropriate," since those were the ones that dealt with finances. And many of those had to do with appropriating funds to pay off loans for items voted on in earlier warrants.

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As always, the school budget is the largest line item, at $1,269,667 (which is down $8,824 from last year). The total proposed budget excluding the special articles is $3,322,651, up $12,073 from last year. Special articles, if approved, would add another $398,066, for a grand total of $3,720,717.

One article on the town warrant that was not discussed in the meeting (because it is not "to raise and appropriate") is of interest because it deals with an issue much discussed around town—how the community center should be funded. Article 21, placed on the warrant by citizen petition, would, if passed, amend the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House to specify that the funding would be "by private contributions and through civic events"; i.e., no more town funds could be used for the community center.

—Susan Gallant

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Joe Baker

The new floor structure for the Wilson McLaughlin House is now complete. In this photo, Don and Troy of Kronengerger & Sons Restoration are installing the plywood subfloor. Stop by and walk around!

Community Center News

There is great news to report this month—the basement work and the new first floor subfloor are complete! The crew from Kronenberger & Sons Restoration were able to pour the final concrete wall section, install a concrete floor in the basement, and construct a floor structure far stronger than this house has ever known. We have moved the stairs over to the wall and removed the interior walls, creating one large room for Community Center use. Please stop by at 468 Main Road any time to take a look.

We have also installed gutters on the house, catching rainfall to deliver into the new fiberglass cistern just purchased for the Community Garden. It will be a very practical system. The next phase involves installing some structural steel supports for the upper post and beam frame; then it will be time for exterior insulated wall panels, new windows and doors.

The Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House committee is finalizing our grant application to the Berkshire Bank Foundation as well as making plans for fundraising events this summer. As always, we welcome your input and your donations (fully tax-deductible), which you can make online at our website www.ccmonterey.org. Look there for photos of the construction work as it goes forward and for the latest news. Or if you'd rather, write us at PO Box 302, Monterey.

Thanks!

—Joe Baker for FWMH

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Memorial Day Activities in Monterey

Veterans Memorial Park Ceremony

The 18th Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday May 26th, at the Monterey Veterans Memorial Park, on the corner of Route 23 at Blue Hill Road.

Familiar faces will be back this year. Pastor Elizabeth Goodman will offer prayers, and Mary Kate Jordan will bring her special thoughts. George Emmons will be the speaker. The firing squad under Julio Rodriguez will add their salute using the antique and newly oiled guns, which are "guaranteed' to work perfectly. The flags are also antiques.

Come and share this special ceremony, honoring all veterans and families with dignity; the day and the ceremony have personal meaning for so many. This park is yours—you made it possible. Passers-by often stop by and enjoy a quiet rest and browse.

Your contributions to the park in Dean's Amidon's memory were heartwarming, generous, and appreciated!!! It was so special to him. It has proudly been totally funded by donations.

—Veterans Memorial Committee:
Julio Rodriguez, Gorgianna O'Connell,
Frank D'Amato, Arnold Hayes

Memorial Day Parade

At 1:00 p.m. we will have our parade starting at Sandisfield Road and ending at the firehouse. The Memorial Day committee is asking for volunteers to carry the flags in the parade. The Honor Guard has three flags, American, State, Town and two rifles. We have a flag from every service: Army, Navy, Marines, Air force, and Coast Guard. If you would like to be a flag bearer please contact Sergeant Michael Johnson. Also this year we would like to have dogs on parade, so dress up your pet and come march in the parade.

As always there will be food and entertainment after the parade at the firehouse pavilion. Sergeant Johnson has it on good authority that the ICE CREAM TRUCK will be there along with a musical guest.

It should be a fun time, so remember to come out and if you would like to participate or volunteer please call Sergeant Johnson at 413-528-1443 ext 226 and let him know how you would like to help.

Nanette Hucknall to Speak at May 21 Community Potluck

The Bidwell House Museum presentation at the April Potluck was fascinating. The fact that it was Passover and Holy Week may have led to a decreased attendance, but it also really brought home the fact that these missionaries devoted their lives to their faith. Thanks so much to the Bidwell House Board and speakers.

For the May Potluck, Nanette Hucknall will talk about the book she coauthored with Judith Bach called *The Rose and the Sword: How to Balance Your Feminine and Masculine Energies*.

Nanette will describe theses energies, both the positive and negative aspects, and how they operate within the individual no matter what the gender or sexual orientation. Nanette will explain the importance of having these energies in balance to create a treasure of wholeness within.

There will be an exercise to help the attendees understand their own masculine and feminine energies.

Nanette has enjoyed living in Monterey for twenty years. She is the cofounder of the Center for Peace through Culture and founder and president of Higher Self Yoga Inc., and has worked as a career therapist and psychotherapist. Nanette and Judith Bach have presented workshops worldwide. Besides *The Rose and the Sword*, her published books are *Karma, Destiny and Your Career* and *Higher Self Yoga, Book One*.

The next, and last of the season, Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, May 21, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

Bidwell House Museum Invites Volunteers

Join the Garden Angels! Saturdays at 10 a.m. for gardening fun, led by Ruth Green. A wonderful opportunity to be with a group of neighbors, learn more about gardening, and help make the museum's heirloom vegetable garden into the beautiful and bountiful special exhibit for visitors from near and far that it is every year. Come once or come often! The schedule is on the website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Please call the museum at 528-6888 for more information.

Grounds Clean Up Day, Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. onward. Have fun with rakes, saws, neighbors and friends. Bring gloves. Delicious refreshments served. Please come help. Great opportunity for high school volunteer hours too. In case of rain, please check the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org

Become a Museum Guide! If you would like to learn about Monterey colonial history and enjoy meeting people and giving tours, please join us! Introductory meeting and training on Thursday, May 29th, at 11 a.m. Call 528-6888 for information.

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Early in the nineties the Monterey Select Board appointed a Veterans Memorial Committee to look into the WW II Memorial Board outside the town hall and the WW I Memorial Bronze Plaque on the rock in front of the library. The committee consisted of Dean Amidon, Frank D'Amato, Art Hastedt, Arnold Hayes, Gige O'Connell, and Ray Tryon. Art Hastedt and Dean Amidon were elected co-chairmen. The WW II Memorial Board listed all WW II veterans from Monterey and long-term summer residents. The WW I Memorial in front of the library also listed Monterey vets and some summer residents.

After many meetings it was decided to undertake a massive project of listing all Monterey residents and long-term summer residents who served in all the wars from the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War. This was a grand idea but involved a great deal of research and history. With the help of Arnold Hayes, who was the veterans service officer for the area, Linda Thorpe, who is very knowledgeable about townspeople over the years, Ray Tryon, Monterey's unofficial historian, and many others, including our committee members, we succeeded in producing all of those names. IT WASN'T EASY!

The next step was to choose a place to list these names and an honorable way to display them. The town, wisely, had just purchased a plot of land along Blue Hill Road for a future extension of Corashire Cemetery. At a town meeting, the town generously donated a parcel on the corner of Blue Hill Road and Route 23 for use as a Veterans Memorial Park.

In the meantime Art Hastedt moved from town, leaving Dean Amidon as the chairman.

Frank D'Amato and Edith Wilson, two of our fine Town artists, submitted sketches of the proposed park and monuments. After careful thought, we chose Frank's design, showing tall, narrow, square monuments with room enough to include many names on each of the four sides. These were elevated on top of a gentle slope for better exposure, and they certainly are impressive. Paul Arienti, a Great Barrington veteran and owner of a business of memorial stones, suggested a dark Italian Impala polished granite stone for these vertical steles. In addition, we designated a matching normal shaped stone to be placed facing the traffic on Rte. 23 with the name of the new park and a dedication date of July 4, 1997, inscribed on the front. Needless to say, these heavy stones required a deep and strong foundation to support them. Local contractors provided the labor, equipment, and material to install the foundations. Leigh Tryon and Phil Newey were the generous donors. There were so many names that three steles were required, and it's amazing that Paul Arienti inscribed those hundreds of names perfectly.

In addition a large flag pole was donated by Arnie Hayes, and an appropriate light for night viewing was installed. Ray Tryon suggested that the Monterey Fire Department acquire and maintain the light. Our local electrician, Ray Bertelli, provided the expertise to install the light, and he and the Fire Department maintain them to this day.

The next step was to raise the funds for this memorial. A fund drive, mainly through the *Monterey News*, began immediately, and approximately $35,000 was raised to complete the project. The friends and residents of Monterey were very generous in donating amounts from ten dollars to five thousand dollars.

The Cemetery Committee maintains the park as part of its responsibility.

After the 911 terrorist attack on the Twin Towers, the Monterey Memorial Veterans Committee decided to install a flagpole in front of the town hall with a plaque dedicating the flag to all of those who lost their lives in that attack on the United States. The plaque was lost during the recent renovations of the town hall, but our committee plans to replace it.

Our committee urges the younger veterans in town to continue adding names of veterans from wars since Vietnam to the beautiful park in a similar manner.

We thank Arnie Hayes and Allan Dean, who provided ceremonial music, and Leroy Thorpe for organizing the participating veterans over all these years.

A dedication was held on July 4, 1997, and every Memorial Day since a service has been held in the park in memory of ALL veterans especially Montereyans.

—Veterans Memorial Committee

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The Select Board Candidates Forum

George Cain

Kenn Basler and Steven Weisz, candidates for the open Select Board seat discussed their views about issues facing the town at the May 26 forum (which was organized by Jacob Edelman). The election is Tuesday, May 6, at the firehouse, 12 to 7 p.m.

On Saturday, April 26, a forum was held in the church's basement for the people of Monterey to hear from the two candidates running to succeed Muriel Lazzarini on the Select Board. Ken Basler and Steven Weisz are the two contenders for the seat. Approximately twenty members of the community were in attendance as both Basler and Weisz gave opening statements spending approximately fifteen minutes explaining their views on many aspects of Monterey governance. After the two had a turn to speak the forum shifted gears to a Q&A format.

Both candidates agreed that two of the most substantial issues confronting the town are the future of the Monterey School and what to do with the Monterey Community Center project. Basler discussed the town's need for solutions to immediate problems while covering in detail point-by-point each department's current difficulties and needs. Weisz also spoke on municipal issues, while highlighting his prior work with towns in "similar situations" to Monterey's currently, as well as his desire to spend time on the ground with each department and make himself available as a Select Board member for casual office hours.

Several pointed questions that some in the audience felt were derogatory in nature were directed at one of the candidates during his opening statement, and a brief exchange of words ensued between several in the crowd. The atmosphere between the two candidates was amiable and good-natured throughout the event. Both Basler and Weisz agreed on the need for more accessible evening Select Board meetings. The two men were also in agreement on their desire to maintain the Monterey school, and they believe that improvements need to and should be made to the building itself. Another common theme was their shared desire to work more closely in coordination with nearby towns for mutual benefit on a range of local ventures.

Some of the talk centered specifically on questions about Monterey employee compensation and the Monterey Community Center. There was discussion about the calls made at the previous night's Finance Committee and Select Board informational meeting to examine the town's shared split on healthcare costs with employees, as well as employee reviews. On the community center, Basler remarked that he has high hopes, but believes from various consultations with local contractors that existing cost estimates for restoration may not be realistic, and slightly altered steps may have to be taken on the project. Weisz proposed an idea of selling the house named "Bally Gally" on the community center property while retaining the land beneath it and leasing it to the buyer, then splitting the proceeds between restoring the Edith Wilson house and offsetting growing tax bills.

Both candidates maintained a very positive attitude toward the future of Monterey. The town election is on Tuesday May 6, at the firehouse, voting from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

—Jacob Edelman

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My Turn

Solutions

Monterey is a town of good will. Here, people are interested in doing the right thing for their community. Sometimes, the strong desire to do something "right" will polarize an issue and force us to talk about the "problems" instead of the "solutions."

My issue today, is the Edith Wilson property.

During my time in Monterey, I have spoken with many folks that feel strongly about the property and the farmhouse that is currently being rehabilitated.

On one side, there are people who are passionate about upholding the spirit of Edith Wilson's will. In it, she leaves the town over 28 acres of land in two parcels. The first parcel contains her original farmhouse and her bequest "on the condition that it (the town) agree to maintain said farmhouse in good condition, to be used for municipal purposes." The second, smaller parcel contains a house she called "Bally Gally." Ms. Wilson "suggests" this property be used for a caretaker. It is currently being rented and maintained by the town.

On the other side, there are people who are passionate about the proper use of taxpayers' money. They understand that the budget of our town is tight and every dollar that is spent should be spent judiciously. This group feels that the rehabilitation of the Edith Wilson farmhouse should not be done with tax money and is similarly concerned that once it is finished, it will continue to be a drain on the coffers of the town.

Both sides have a point. So we must ask ourselves, "*Is there a solution to this problem?"* There may be.

As a relative newcomer to Monterey, the first thing I did was to talk to as many people as possible about the issue. I went to the farmhouse site and even helped with some of the debris removal. Here is where I became impressed with the dedication and drive that these folks had for the property. I also looked at the town budget and my own tax bill (gulp!). The taxpayers group is correct. We are in a bit of a bind, financially. The last thing I did was *actually read* Edith Wilson's will.

I am not an attorney; however, Edith Wilson's will is fairly simple and straightforward. In it, she wishes that the land be preserved (not sold) for the benefit of the town. She also asks that her farmhouse be maintained, but only *suggests* a use for "Bally Gally."

My suggested solution is simple; Sell the HOUSE named "Bally Gally," but not the LAND. In this scenario, the town sells "Bally Gally" and agrees to lease the land it sits on to the new owner, for a token amount (@$1 a year). The town and the Edith Wilson folks then split the proceeds of the house sale (@ $250K) with the understanding that the Wilson side of the split go to finishing the house and maintaining it.

This solution accomplishes many things:

1. The spirit of the Edith Wilson's will is preserved.

2. The Edith Wilson house is restored and maintained at no further taxpayer cost.

3. The town is relieved from maintaining "Bally Gally" (a current taxpayer cost).

4. The town gets @ $125,000 in revenue to offset our growing tax bills.

This is my idea. Whether it can (or will) be used to resolve this issue, I hope it demonstrates that solutions to Monterey's challenges can come from anyone who cares about this town, regardless of the amount of years they have lived here.

—Steven Weisz

Otis Cultural Council Tag Sale

A tag sale sponsored by the Otis Cultural Council will be held on Saturday, May 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Otis Ridge Ski Center parking lot on Route 23. (Rain date is Sunday, May 25). Bring your 3' X 6' table and your tag sale items and join your neighbors for a profitable and social event.

For an application, go to www.townofotisma.com/cultural council or Otis Town Hall, Route 8. The cost is $10.00 per table for Otis residents and $15.00 for nonresidents. Send check and application to: Otis Cultural Council, POB 237, Otis, MA 01253.

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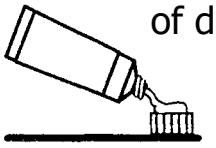

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Route 23 Monterey

Upcoming Monterey Cultural Council Events

The following exhibits in the Knox Gallery in the Monterey are supported by our Cultural Council and the Friends of Monterey Library:

Paula Shalan: Shades of Black (ceramics), May 2-31. Opening reception: Friday, May 2, 6–7:30 p.m. Artist Talk: sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council, Saturday May 31, 10 a.m.

Leonard Weber, June 6–July 5. Opening reception Saturday, June 7, 7–8:30 p.m.

Photography Monterey: A Community Exhibition featuring photographs taken in Monterey during the last year. July 11–August 23.

Julie Shapiro: Recent Work, August 29–September 27. Opening reception: Saturday, August 30, 6–7:30 p.m.

The Monterey Cultural Council will also sponsor:

Jazz by the Lucky Five quintet, in the Monterey Meeting House basement, Saturday, June 7, 7 p.m., an event that transports you to basement cafes of NYC or Montreal. Event is free. Light refreshments. Donations happily accepted.

A **Nature Walk**, Saturday, June 7, with Conrad Ohman, Forest Manager of Beartown and other state forests. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the intersection of Brett and Blue Hill Roads and explore a portion of the 115-acre Winter Farm. This property has a history of agriculture and mining. Features include a disappearing stream, small caves, large and small depressions in the ground (manmade or natural?), large limestone boulders, numbered trees, scattered artifacts, towering spruce, very large white pine, wetland habitat, and more than a dozen species of trees of varying size and age. The walk is generally easy, but young children will require some close supervision in a few places. Expect to spend between 1 to 2 hours, but easy exit along the way. Event is free. One word of caution—TICKS

Meet the *NY Times* best-selling author **B. B. Haywood**, aka Beth Feenan,at a book reception in her honor, Saturday, June 21, 4:30–6:00 p.m., at the Monterey General Store, 448 Main Rd., 413-528-5900. Event is free; signed copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Bidwell House Museum's **Township No 1 Day**, a joint celebration by Tyringham and Monterey of our shared history, Saturday, July 5, 100 Art School Rd., Monterey. Celebrate colonial reenactors, local musicians, gardens, games and crafts,and a baking contest.

Bidwell House Announces 2014 Season Program

The Bidwell House Museum, Monterey's own Colonial history museum, has announced its 2014 season program. The museum is featuring a series of events focused on life in the Berkshires and New England from the first English settlers, to the Shakers, to the "plein air" arts movement in the early twentieth century. The history talk series will feature six authors and professors. Historic crafts will be demonstrated at Township No. 1 Day on July 5.

The Museum is inviting the whole community to the fifth annual Township Number 1 Day on Saturday, July 5, to celebrate local history with fun events for all ages, and to the other season highlights: the opening concert on Sunday, May 25, featuring Diane Taraz singing and playing lap dulcimer, and the festive garden party benefitting the museum, on August 2. This year's theme and site is the early twentieth-century "Berkshire Summer School of Art."

The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage site providing a personal encounter with history, early American home life, and the Berkshire landscape through its land, house, and collection. The Museum is a nonprofit educational institution for the benefit of the community and

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today's audiences of all ages, dedicated to preservation, scholarship, and enjoyment of the landmark site.

Tours of the homestead tell the story of the early settlement of the Berkshires and of life on the frontier. The Museum is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails, and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

2014 Season Program Schedule

May 25, Concert and Opening Reception: Singer-songwriter Diane Taraz performs "Songs from the American Revolution" from her early American repertoire. Diane tells the stories of the songs and accompanies herself on guitar and lap dulcimer. Refreshments. 3 p.m.

June 14, History Talk: *Welcoming Mary Bidwell: A Story of Love, Marriage and Politics in the 1790s Berkshire Hills, and the Story of a Portrait.* In celebration of the donation of Mary Gray Bidwell's portrait to the Museum, Sam Herrup of Samuel Herrup Antiques, Sheffield, will talk about portrait paintings and artists in early America. Rick Bidwell Wilcox will tell the fascinating story of the subject of the painting, Mary Gray (1764–1808) and her politician husband, Barnabas Bidwell (1763–1833), of Stockbridge. The unveiling of the painting at the Museum will follow. The talk will be held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

June 28, History Talk: *The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic*. John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University on his just published book about an early American experiment in multicultural education. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

July 5, Bidwell House Museum Township No. 1 Day: A community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history. Colonial re-enactors, live music by local musicians, children's activities, baking contest, historic craft demonstrations, author talks, more. For details and individual event times, please check www.bidwellhousemuseum.org or call (413) 528-6888. Supported in part by a grant from the Monterey and Tyringham Cultural Councils. 1 – 4:30 p.m. Free.

Please note: the museum is closed for tours this day.

July 12, History Talk: *New England Bound: Slavery and Colonization at the Edge of an Empire*. Wendy Warren, Asst. Professor of History at Princeton University, explores the conjunction of slavery and colonization in seventeenth-century New England. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

July 26, History Talk: *Love and Separation: The Great Problem for Ordinary Americans in the Nineteenth Century*. Nicholas Marshall, Professor of History at Marist College, will talk about the central issues faced in a period of great change, as revealed in diaries and letters. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

Aug. 2, Summer Garden Party for the Bidwell House Museum: Live music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auction at the magical property of the 1914 to 1936 Berkshire Summer School of Art. Party benefits the historic 1750s Bidwell House Museum. 4–7 p.m., Art School Road. 413-528-6888.

Aug. 23, History Talk: *Early American Voices*. A reading of letters and diaries compiled by John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

Aug. 30, History Talk: *Fact and Fiction: Imagining the Real World of the Shakers*. Author Rachel Urquhart on the research and writing of her highly acclaimed novel *The Visionist* about a young Shaker girl. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

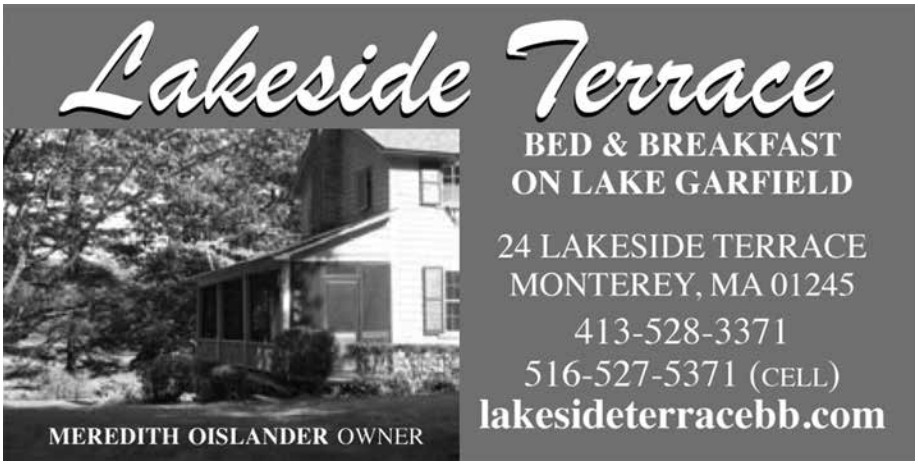
Sept. 20, Housatonic Heritage Walk: *Royal Hemlock Trail Hike in the Steps of the Early Settlers*. A guided walk on Bidwell lands as well as the BNRC's Hudson-Howard property, tracing the route of the early settlers of Township No. 1 to their first meetinghouse. Led by Richard Greene. Please dress for the weather and terrain and bring water. 10 a.m.

Oct. 5, Housatonic Heritage Walk: *Steadman Pond to Bidwell House Hike* in search of old roads on the BNRC's Hudson-Howard property and Monterey Conservation Land Trust lands. Led by Rob Hoogs and Adam Brown, and co-sponsored by the Monterey Preservation Land Trust. Please dress for the weather and terrain and bring water. 2 p.m.

Oct. 11, Walk on the Old Art School Grounds. Led by Rob Hoogs. The Berkshire Summer School of Art brought hundreds of artists to a camp in Monterey between 1915 and 1936. This is a special opportunity to see this private property. Please dress for the weather and terrain and bring water. Meet at the museum. 10 a.m.

Nov. 29, Colonial Thanksgiving Party. Benefit for the museum with live music, refreshments, and silent auction. 4–7 p.m.

Please call or email for more information: 413-528-6888, bidwellhouse@gmail.com, www.bidwellhousemuseum.org; 100 Art School Road, Box 537, Monterey, MA 01245.



May at the Knox Gallery

Paula Shalan Ceramics: Shades of Black opens at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, on May 2, with a reception from 6-7:30 p.m. that evening. The artist will speak about her work at the gallery on Saturday morning, May 31, at 10 a.m., just before the exhibit closes.

Paula Shalan is the second in three generations of potters. Based in Stockbridge, she was educated at Sarah Lawrence College and The Art Institute of Chicago. She exhibits nationally at galleries and prestigious retail shows, including *Craft Boston* and *The Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show*, and is represented by Susan Maasch Fine Art in Portland, Maine. Her new series of pots were inspired by line and pattern seen in the birches, lichen, and rocks of Schoodic Point at Acadia National Park, where Shalan spent last September as artist-in-residence. As an interesting juxtaposition, she has been awarded a residency on the outer cape through the Cape Cod National Seashore for this coming September. Shalan has been an active teacher in art and ceramic centers, private and public schools, and museums for over twenty-five years.

Each of Shalan's pieces is hand built from white earthenware using pinch, coil, and slab techniques. The pots are hand polished and fired in wood shavings for twenty-four hours, absorbing smoke and transforming from white to black. Her refined pieces echo her interest in the relationship of interiors and exteriors as well as the absorption and reflection of light.

Shalan sees her work as a tribute to

the quiet details found in nature. Inspired by her acute observations of form, line, and texture she records the minutest impressions through a constant dialogue with the tactile process of building with malleable clay.

Paula Shalan Ceramics: Shades of Black, will be on view through May 31. *Leonard Weber : 50 Years of Berkshire Impressions* will open on June 6, with a reception on June 7. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours.

Community Photography Exhibit

Please get cameras tuned up and busy preparing for our upcoming community photography exhibit! For our summer community show we will ask each artist to submit one framed, ready to hang photograph that has been taken in Monterey during the preceding twelve months. We ask all friends and artists who would like to participate to submit an "Intent to Enter" form by June 20. The form will be available in the library and on the town website by June 1; all instructions will be on the forms. Ready-to-hang work will be due just after July 4, and the exhibit will run until late August. Surely interesting, creative, and varied pieces will fill the gallery this summer!

—MaryPaul Yates

Monterey Library Notes

Thanks to the Coffee Club, the Friends of the Monterey Library, and the Monterey Police Department for helping to make the egg hunt on Easter Sunday a huge success. Almost 40 children found over 500 eggs in record time. The weather was perfect, and everyone found some eggs!

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership in the Friends of the Monterey Library over the past month. There's still time to renew, or even better join, this great organization to help improve our library services to the community.

Meditation for Stress Reduction

The scientific community has recently been exploring the use of meditation as a healing modality. Join Andrew Vidich, PhD, author, educator, consultant, and international speaker as he discusses the extraordinary effect of meditation on reducing stress-related responses, improving concentration, and enhancing clarity of thought and mental equilibrium. He will also present a simple, yet powerful meditation technique that can enrich one's life personally, professionally, and spiritually. Dr. Vidich will speak at the Monterey Library on Saturday, May 17, at 10:30 a.m.

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Monterey 2020 Community Conversations:

Visioning The Future of Our Town

"Conversation is the oldest, most natural way we humans communicate to share information and ideas with one another."

—Margaret Wheatley

How often have you heard, "Monterey is a very special place"? Well, just what makes Monterey so special? That is what Monterey 2020 Community Conversations is exploring. It is an ongoing public forum where **all** people living in Monterey can come together to share knowledge, information, ideas, solutions, and clarification of current and future issues. Through Conversations we talk about who we are as a community, how history has shaped our town, where we are now, what is important to us, and ways to move forward together with constructive resolution to present-day Monterey issues that will help guide our future.

What Preceded the First Community Conversation?

At the January and February special Select Board meetings, the Select Board brought together the Monterey Library, Community Center, School, and Bidwell House to clarify its position on the town's budget and asked these organizations not to put forth requests for funding during the 2014–2015 budget process.

Those meetings spurred larger discussions about the interrelationships between the organizations and the larger issues that impact Monterey beyond budgets.

It was suggested that by having these organizations work together, there may be a path to achieving the goals of each program. Monterey 2020 was encouraged to participate as a catalyst in this process. It was agreed that the original organizations will work together while being aware that they are dependent on many other entities as well as townspeople for funding. People would like to see these organizations, which are so vital to our town, be able to not just survive, but thrive and continue to bring benefits to all.

The Beginning of Community Conversation

On March 22, the first Community Conversation continued the previous Select Board dialogue with the aforementioned four organizations, Additionally, representatives from the Monterey General Store and the Roadside Cafe along with twenty-eight enthusiastic residents participated. We began by listing Monterey's assets in the following categories: agricultural, business, cultural, historical, municipal, natural, recreational, and social. Quickly it became apparent that we have an abundance of valued resources. It was an extensive list and just the beginning; it got people thinking about everything from farms to artists, from second-home owners to our aging population, from saving the Monterey School program and expanding the Library to completing construction of the Community Center. The myriad needs of Monterey began to be addressed, such as recognizing the value of the Monterey School program, helping the elderly and disabled obtain transportation options, identifying infrastructure needed to sustain existing businesses, and developing affordable housing within the parameters of keeping the beauty of our town.

At the April 12th Community Conversation, representatives from the Select Board, Planning Board, Library, Community Center, School, and Bidwell House were there to give updates. In an effort to keep residents informed, it is important to get accurate information directly from the source. The proposed Town Meeting Warrant and Articles were made available in anticipation of the then upcoming Finance Committee open meeting and the annual town meeting.

It was acknowledged that monthly Community Conversations on a Saturday morning cannot reach all those who would like to participate, so the suggestion to hold conversations in people's homes became a good start. Already several people have stepped forward to host community conversations in their homes. One will be focused on agriculture in Monterey. Another will gather together part-time residents, bringing them up-to-date on the issues and concerns along with getting feedback. Hosting conversations, whether in your home or at the General Store, Roadside Café, or Harvest Barn, is a great way to engage family, friends, and neighbors in talking about what we care about and the future of our great town. It is important that notes and suggestions from those conversations get back to the Monterey 2020 group.

If you would like to read the summaries of the March and April Community Conversations, please go to www. Monterey2020.org.

What Is Up Next?

Because many believe that history helps inform our future, the May 17th Conversation will begin with a reflection on times when Monterey pulled together for the common good—Monterey Lights the Way and the Route 23 Bypass. We will get updates from the core community organizations along with a brief recap of the May 3rd Town Meeting from town officials and residents. And perhaps most important, start work on what plans we will need to move toward a more vibrant Monterey future.

Be Inspired and Be Inspiring

As we continue to engage in conversations, we become a stronger more resilient community.

Join in the Community Conversation on Saturday, May 17, at 10 a.m. in Monterey Town Hall.

—Dennis Lynch & Wendy Germain

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Community Garden Plant Sale, Garden Raffle May 31

The Community Center Garden is having its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will have varieties of lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, chard and many more. We will also have flowers, including edible tangerine and lemon marigold, as well as nasturtium, sunflowers, etc.

Our prices are the best you will find around, and all plants are organic and local!

A special thanks to Stephen Enoch and the garden team at Gould Farm for growing our plants in their greenhouse.

All proceeds are used to help maintain our Community Garden.

There are other big happenings at this sale. We will raffle off a garden plot for a dollar a chance. We have plenty of sunshine to grow your own flowers or veggies. We also have a fence to keep the critters out. If your house is in a shady landscape, this is the perfect place for you to have a garden. The winner can be a part of this exciting garden for only one dollar

Harvesting the Rain.

This year we have a cistern to harvest the rain. Water from the Monterey Community Center's roof will be collected in a new cistern that will feed our three holding tanks for watering your garden. If we have a very dry season, Kenn Basler has kindly offered to bring water in, if needed. Hopefully the cistern will be up and running by the time of the Plant Sale and Raffle.

You are invited to take a look at our new green water supply and purchase your organic local garden plants for this year.

We hope to see you there.

—Christine Goldfinger

Lapsed Friendships

Have you ever wondered how many people you have known through the years? Not casual acquaintances, but those with whom you had a relationship over a period of time. Depends upon how far back you go, but anyone sufficiently active and sociable should be able to assemble a list numbering in the hundreds. Once your own memory bank is depleted, consider consulting your school and college yearbooks, old office rosters, and organizational directories, as well as invitation lists you have kept.

Still, the most valuable and richest source of friendships and familiar names is certainly (before Facebook and "Contacts") those personal address books and phone directories you maintained and relied upon. Any one of them (people have generally compiled several) opens the door, not only to current listings, but to a storehouse of memories. (Entry into your book was never automatic. It represented your judgment that the relationship was of some importance and likely to endure.)

On page after page you'll discover a lost world of individuals barely recalled or who exited your life. Proceeding through the *A*'s and *B*'s, *S*'s and *T*'s confirms just how many have passed through and then on by. More numerous are the names of those with whom you once engaged, were part of your circle, relied upon, spoke to often, but who are now silent, departed. How can they be gone? Their names are still on the page, together with their addresses and phone numbers. They've not been erased or crossed out. One should, out of respect, not do that. Still, cross-outs are, in other instances, unavoidable. People do not stay still, they move, sometimes repeatedly, their geographical mobility obvious in their multiple listings. Many names leave you perplexed, having been crossed off in your memory. Who were they? Why are they in the book? What was our relationship?

You are likely to linger and reflect upon the names of people once close, individuals whose company and conversation you enjoyed. Why has contact with them ceased? You struggle to recall the basis for the separation. For the moment you are tempted to get back in touch, perhaps rekindle a once-comfortable relationship. You may, but more likely you will hesitate, reconsider, find reasons not to. It would be awkward. Besides, they've made no effort over the years to reach out to you.

Friends, colleagues, family members, area stores, service people—page after page they're listed, but a phone call away. Our personal telephone directories are very much a set of history books documenting significant chapters of our lives. They are both a handy bittersweet reminder of the many roles we have filled and a snapshot of the shifting network of connections and relationships that we created and that defined the breadth and boundaries of our lives.

—Richard Skolnik

Richard blogs at www.Catchmydrift.net.

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Montereyfest 2014 to Benefit Monterey Community Center, August 9

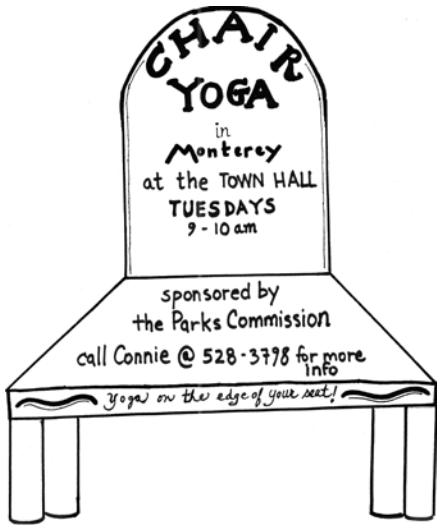
Without town funding this year, the status of MontereyFest had been in question. But thanks to the generosity of The Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG), there will be a "MontereyFest 2014"!

At a planning meeting that took place on Saturday, April 19, Julio Rodriguez and Hy Rosen announced that FLG will sponsor MontereyFest 2014. Elizabeth and Michael Germain stepped up and volunteered to be Chairs of the event this year. Other volunteers at the meeting included Myrna Rosen, Ed Brown, and Dorene Beller.

In addition to structuring MontereyFest 2014 as a fun-filled day for children and adults, an idea that met with unanimous approval was to add a fund-raising element to benefit the Monterey Community Center. MontereyFest activities will continue to be free of charge, but items, such as T-shirts, will be sold to raise funds for our Community Center.

Volunteers are needed for various aspects of MontereyFest 2014, and we encourage those who are interested in working on the event or contributing their ideas to attend the next meeting: Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. at the Monterey General Store.

For more information, or if you would like to be involved but can't attend the next meeting, please call Elizabeth Germain at 413-237-3816 or email her at egermain@charter.net.



From Boylston Street to River Road

I needed terror to look like someone else,
not the mop of a boy on a Rolling Stone.

Two blasts, and shrapnel digs –
as if one wound could heal another.

The nightmare dropped birds in dark rain
we tried to reassemble, beaks and feathers –
but hollow bones did not stick, with any tacky glue.

Once, far from Boylston Street,
River Road had its own rending, the tornado of '95.
A scouring screech, then the landscape, raw.

I would step over limbs, trees torn from roots –
and shadows unable to cast.

Gathering branches, brought us all closer then,
we longed to find the ground.
It was here I had to return, shaking off rain and glue.

I had to see time fold bark back onto trunks,
and swallows nesting in twenty-year-old stumps.

Here, a shaded path to run.

—M. Hamilton

Who's Who in Monterey
Hannah Fries

I have an actress friend who once, following a performance we saw together, said of the performer, "She's all output," and I knew exactly what she meant, though I couldn't, and still can't, quite explain it. I've found it a useful concept, though.

Hannah and I had agreed to meet for lunch at Rubi's, but I arrived before she did. Sitting alone at a table in the small but crowded room, I sensed some output going on. Great Barrington has become a fashionable place. Its shops and eateries can feel like a scene, and those who people them often seem to have readied themselves to be seen. But I hadn't, and it had me feeling self-conscious, apologetic, backed up against the back wall and, bulky, nearly blocking the door to the bathroom.

Hannah, when she arrived, was a subtle contrast to all this. To be sure, she is as "with-it" as any there, tall and pretty, but she's also natural, unfussy. Less output—her smile is slow but, when it comes, wide; she is patient and present—she allows for lots of input.

Poets, I imagine, have to be more input than output: they notice everything and then choose ten or twenty words, one hundred or two hundred words, to name it all, the obvious and the underlying. Hannah is a poet, published as Hannah Fries, though now (as of 2012) married to Adam Brown. Together they live in Roger Tryon's house just up the hill from Lowland Farm. They've been there for more than a year and are looking to buy in town. They moved here from Egremont, and have found Monterey surprisingly and delightfully lively. They want a small house on a big plot of land, so if you've got something to sell in their price range . . .

Born in Boston, Hannah was 3½ when her family moved to Bow, New Hampshire, wanting a less urban lifestyle. Her father is a lawyer who could have spent his career working 80 hours a week but really didn't want to; in Concord, New Hampshire, he wouldn't have to. Hannah's younger sister, Kristen, was a baby when they moved, and her youngest sister, Laura, came three years later still. They were, and still are, a close family; all three girls even married in the same year, a six-month period when

Liz Goodman

each was either bride or bridesmaid, and happily so.

Hannah has also worked as an editor, for the last 9 years at *Orion* magazine. This is what brought her to the Berkshires: a yearlong internship at the magazine following her graduation from Dartmouth College in 2004. But this month, she'll start at Storey Publishing in North Adams, were she'll serve as project editor. This will be a good move because at *Orion*, associate editor and poetry editor, she spent a lot of her free time reading, on the lookout for writers of all genres from whom she'd like to solicit work. Though the reading fit well with her own work as a poet, it also changed the reason why she was reading, now less about freely allowing the words to have their effect and more an end-driven process of search-and-find. To have time to read for its own sake: this will be a welcome thing.

Having majored in English at Dartmouth, having also become a Master of Fine Arts at Warren Wilson College, Hannah has long known her life would dwell largely in words: she remembers her second grade teacher choosing, among all the poems the students had written, Hannah's to read aloud to the class. But those words would take root in the outside world: she remembers also as child roaming her neighborhood and the back woods, searching its vernal pools and its leafy detritus for signs of life and of death; she would often, with a neighbor, both on their bikes, search the unbusy streets for road-kill and, upon finding one, scrape it off the pavement with stick and hold a burial service for it in the woods.

But a funny thing happened to literature and the study of it over the second half of the twentieth century, so by the time Hannah reached college, the writers to read were no longer Shakespeare and Joyce, Twain and Conrad, Austen and the Bronte sisters, but were Foucault and Derrida, Lacan and Barthes, as literary criticism was all the rage. High-minded as it was, no doubt Hannah could have kept up with it intellectually. She just didn't want to. Theory didn't capture her heart the way literature did and still does. So, she navigated her way through that with a senior thesis that took up just enough theory not to rankle and raise red flags. "Writing Language Back into the Land: Language, Landscape, and the Body in the work of Terry Tempest Williams" earned her honors at graduation and allowed her to spend time with one of her favorite writers, a feeling of favoritism that I imagine would be mutual.

To make words live, to quicken them with the immediacy of experience: this is what drives Hannah as a poet.

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Not coincidentally, this is a central theme in Christianity, the Word of God being said to take on flesh and to live among us. I say this is no coincidence because Hannah grew up going to church, a United Church of Christ congregation in Concord. She sang in the children's choir and played in the hand bell choir. She was active in the youth group and would eventually be confirmed in the church. She was also a camper at Horton Center, the outdoor ministry site of the N.H. Conference of the UCC in the White Mountains.

As it happens, I was a staff member at the same time, a realization we came upon in an email exchange a few days after our lunch together. Horton Center, where we both were campers, then staff members, then unit leaders: it remains for both of us a favorite place, where the natural world meets human imagination and creates something approaching the divine.

Rubi's had quieted down over the course of our conversation, or maybe it was just me. Hannah has a calm about her that invites you in. She's watching and noticing, yes, but it seems what she sees she often recognizes as lovely. And who wouldn't want to be seen in such light?

—Liz Goodman

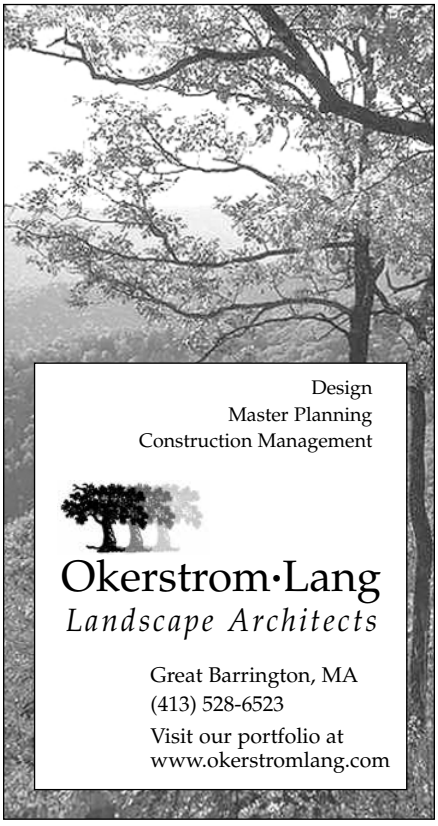
Descending Killington Peak

We step down from darkly clustered spruce
into birch—pink and white,
bark peeled into sunsets, hanging
like sloughed skin. And though it is raining,
it is as if the sun came out—golden
leaves carpeting the forest floor, drifting
from over our heads—like a shattered sun had fallen
in shards through the gray
sky to glow close around us.

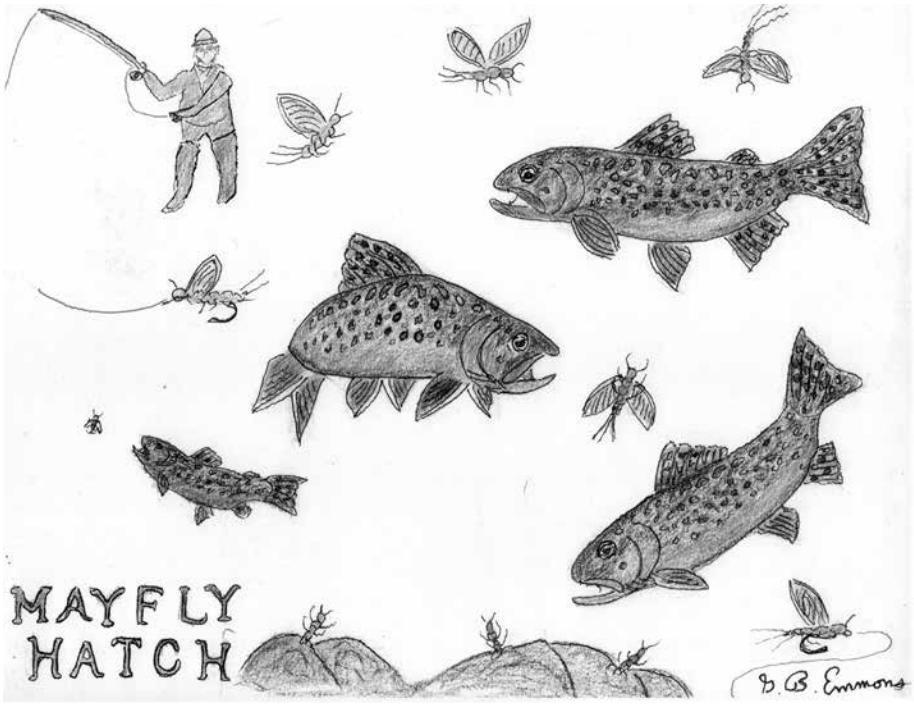
In this kind of quiet, within this deep
shine that comes from somewhere
just beneath the surface on which we live out
our lives, always in those spaces I am
searching for traces—from tree
to tree, in the rose-gold light—some
glimpse of insight, some sign that says *this is the turning*
or this is how you'll know—

omen or rune, intimation that *this is the sweet*
beginning, this is how it will end. But
there is only the sound of our walking
muffled by what has fallen, layers
of glimmer and decay. You take it
for what it is, saying, *in winter here*
it seems you can see forever: the snow
and birches blending, the trunks'
black eyebrows floating
in the blank white.

—Hannah Fries



The May Fly and Brook Trout



The Berkshire Hatchery at the annual Lobsterfest on August 24 will celebrate a monumental gift of this landmark by John Sullivan Acully. A summer resident, this financier of coal, rail, and insurance companies died in 1914 and left estate plans to build the spring fed trout hatchery on thirty-four acres of rolling woodland along the Konkapot River. He was one of many avid anglers drawn to these waters to catch a native brook trout in the water pockets behind almost every large boulder of local streams.

In recognition of that aquatic attraction, we might name the brook trout as the Berkshire Hatchery's Founding Fish. As described in the classic sportsman book *Founding Fish* by John McPhee, the historical spring spawning run of the shad up the Schuylkill River saved George Washington's starving troops at Valley Forge. Another similar founding fish of the New England colonists around Boston is mentioned in the poem "Boston Toast" by John Collins Bossidy as "the home of the bean and the Cod."

The brook trout is the only char native to our waters, and like the shad it readily takes a well-presented fly or bait, but with a more carnivorous and colorful flair. Today the Hatchery hatch house has 30,000 fingerlings fondly called Brookies as popular game fish for the future stocking and outreach of Berkshire County fish and game clubs.

Native brook trout are survivors, but beaver dams here back up water flow, raise water temperatures, and cover stone and gravel bottoms with silt. Warm water and silt are detrimental to the habitat of insects so vital for trout sustenance. In Rawson Brook truly wild fish have subsequently survived only upstream above the Wallace Hall waterfall away from stocked fish. Indigenous species can live and reproduce in the tiniest of streams such as Harmon, Loom, and Weir Brooks.

At the autumnal equinox, spawning hormones are triggered by changing light and water temperature. Few creatures are more stunning than brook trout in their spawning dress of brilliant shades of the deciduous sugar maples. Fly fishing and fly tying use hues no less colorful than Nature's deciduous pallet. But for now, May brings the emergence from stream bottoms of the mayfly, stone fly, and caddis fly, a wake-up call of emerging insects.

When they begin to swarm like a bug festival, it is called a hatch The most wary trout can lose their cool, throwing caution to the wind for an insatiable morsel of energy giving high protein. The mayfly hatch can evolve and finish in almost a single day. The tradition of fly tying goes back to the year 1653 and the publication of Izaak Walton's classic fisherman's guide *The Compleat Angler, or Contemplative Man's Recreation*.

But an earlier origin was documented in a Benedictine monastery by Prioress Juliana Berners, who in 1496 wrote in old English *A Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle* documenting what she called "the consistent seasonal cycle of the Mayefly." Her specifications of artificial flies to match the hatch were so exact that they are now reproduced for the Anglers Cub of New York under the direction of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A tradition of fishing and entomology flows down from feeder brooks past the landmark on River Road to renew John Sullivan Scully's legacy of the founding fish and mayfly hatch for future generations.

—George B Emmons,
Berkshire Hatchery President

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From the Meetinghouse . . .
Marking Time

Mary Kate Jordan

Humans have so many ways of marking time. We use analog and digital clocks. Now that it's May, we're even getting back into sundial season. We've created calendars with various cultural references for, say, 2014, or 5774-75, or the Year of the Horse, which is either 2714 or 4651, depending on how you read your Chinese history.

Those of us invested in religious or spiritual aspects of our culture might use liturgical calendars, too. All these are both the time markers of cultural literacy and marks of literacy as well.

But perhaps literacy really began with a play of light and shadow. So is it really such a jump, to move from awareness of changes in the length of your own shadow to measuring time with the shadow of a tree, a fixed stone or, eventually, a well-marked, well-placed sundial? And necessity, the cliché says, is the mother of invention. There's a whole lot of motivation in knowing when it's likely to be safe to plant the food for next fall's harvest. To know when the Nile would flood, which happened each year when the star Sirius rose above the horizon, or, farther north, being sure when the killing frosts would lose their grip.

Of course, these jumps look easier in retrospect than what they likely were: a serendipity of sudden inspiration combined with research and record keeping. Record keeping based on standing stones and horizon lines, made with marks on clay, or counted with beads or knots in string.

But, as with all things human, the motivation wasn't all practical. To track the seasons by the moon was once also a way to offer hope of renewal. We can use it that way still. In the Iroquois tradition, the Hunger Moon—full moon in February—is followed by the Crow Moon in March: Crow, who caws farewell to winter. Then there's Egg Moon in April, with the Flower Moon—also the Buddhists' Wesak—in the middle of this month. And aren't we all looking forward to the Strawberry Moon in June?

The natural world has her seasonal sundials, too. Goldfinches, for instance. Susan McAllester, Bonner's mother, used to call them Lead Finches early in the season, before there were enough hours of sunlight each day to brighten the males' plumage into the lemon gold they sport from May until fall. Maybe we can learn from such natural simplicity. Maybe we should take sundial time a bit more to heart.

One word of warning though, if you plan to navigate completely by sundial this year. The sun doesn't recognize our culture-based EDT/EST time change. You'll have to translate the sun's hours into analog or digital every day for half the year. Hmmm; maybe we do have much to learn from the goldfinches.

—Mary Kate Jordan

"CATAtude" Showcases Talents of People With Disabilities

Community Access to the Arts presents "CATAtude," CATA's annual performance, on Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18, at Shakespeare & Company's Tina Packer Playhouse in Lenox.

"CATAtude" features CATA's performing artists with disabilities in an exuberant showcase of talent in theater, dance, music, and more. The Saturday evening show will be followed by a gala dinner and dancing. The Sunday matinee begins at 1 p.m. Tickets for both performances are available online at communityaccesstothearts.org or by calling CATA at 413-528-5485.

The theme of "CATAtude" was developed by Program and Artistic Director Dawn Lane to inspire CATA's faculty to create work that, without disability, would not exist. Says Lane, "We are excited to be making new work that places a value on disability and lets disability speak."

At this event, CATA will honor Founder Sandy Newman and welcome Margaret Keller as its new Executive Director. Keller took the helm of the 21-year-old arts organization in February. Said Keller, "Our annual performance is the highlight of the year for our performers with disabilities, our faculty, and our supporters. What a joy it will be to recognize Sandy and her vision of inclusion."

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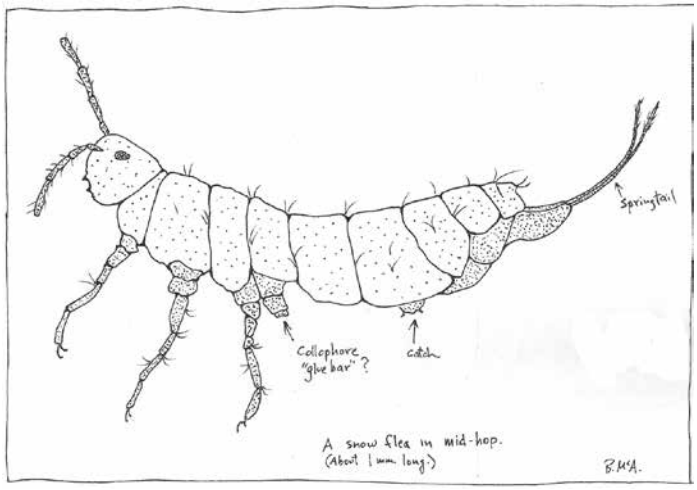
Snow fleas, Jesus Bugs, Springtails: Collembola

Tiny insets are swarming, some in the damp earth and some on the surface of puddles and ponds. They have been doing this for 400 million years, and it is not because this is mating season. They are teeny little insects, hexapods called "collembola," and they like to stay close together. They manage this through emitting and receiving chemical messages, called pheromones. We've all heard of pheromones and think of them as insect come-hithers at mating time. Garden-supply inventors have used them to lure Japanese beetles into traps, for instance. In the world of the collembola, pheromones function all the time to keep the population grouped up. This is important for reproduction, but it also lets the tiny individuals follow each other into good places to live and survive.

Collembola need to stay damp. They get their oxygen right through their damp porous cuticle (skin). Many creatures do this, even us. But with us the damp skin is inside our damp lungs and we inhale oxygen to get it to that wet, protected place. Like salamanders, collembola stay out of the sun.

There are more collembola present on earth than we can imagine, especially since most of us have never seen a single one. The first introduction I got was in Wyoming on some hiking trail. Horses had clomped along here during a muddy, rainy time and there were many horse-track sized puddles for a backpacker to straddle or hop over or slop right into. It was important to hike along with eyes glued to the path. Forget the gorgeous mountain scenery.

Thanks to this focus, I got to see that some horse puddles were covered with teeny creatures, more like a mossy film. I stopped, dumped the pack, squatted down and poked a finger at the mossy covering over the little puddle. Sproing! It vanished. One minute it was there, ready for scrutiny, and the next disappeared into thin air. Out with the hand lens, sneak up to another velvet-covered puddle. The velvet is revealed to be thousands of tiny creatures, high and dry on surface tension. Each one is a millimeter long and each one can self-propel upwards and off the puddle by eight inches. So all thousand of them can vacate the home puddle and land on the mud nearby, where they do not show up at all. Out west folks called them "Jesus bugs," for walking on water.



The next place I met collembola was in the carrot bed here in Monterey. Little teeny seeds had finally sent up graceful long first leaves, like pairs of bright green filament almost. Soon they would be tall and feathery, with sweet carrots underneath. But, no. The next day they had nearly all vanished. Long stretches of row now vacant, green first leaves totally gone. The few survivors had little one-mm hexapods sitting on them. If you got close, poked a finger, they vanished in an instant, just like the Jesus bugs. They'd be eight inches away on the dirt, invisible, and ready to trot back, on their six legs and polish off the few surviving carrot seedlings.

These creatures are unusual insects. They hatch looking just like miniature adults. They don't develop wings. As they grow to their full size, they do moult like other relatives among the arthropods, but their form stays the same. This form is remarkable, with a special disappearance structure called a furcula. This consists of a tail or protrusion off the rear end, which can be folded forward and clipped under a sort of catch on the belly. The spring is always loaded, the catch ready to release. The furcula snaps back and down against the substrate, whether it is a carrot leaf or the surface of

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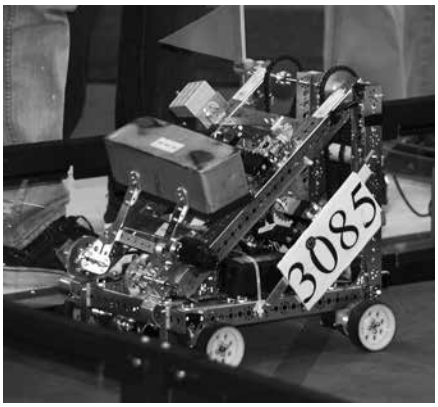
a horse puddle, and the animal is instantly gone, as from a slingshot.

There is another local collembolan or springtail, called a "snow flea." It is a not a flea and won't bite. It is present all year long, but is hard to spot except when it may show up on snow. This one is dark blue and is called *Hypogastrula nivicola,* which is Latin for something to do with under the belly and snow. We often see swarms of them when we are sugaring. Sometimes they show up on the snow and sometimes on the surface of the sap in the buckets. They have that same walking-on-water ability.

A few days ago I went to see mystery creatures on a friend's small garden pool. Sure enough, collembola. These were soft and flannel-looking and grouped up close together. I've read collembola can be yellow, green, orange, red, indigo, blue, white, or pink. The ones from 400 million years back are fossils in some chert from Scotland, and other ancestral species have been preserved in amber. None of these old, old springtails look different from the ones around today, which means it is a model that works very well. There's been no need to modify the design, so far. Clearly the wicked winter we just had, the one inspiring some northeasterners to start looking south for survival, has not daunted the venerable collembola. As long as they can keep their skin damp, they'll be here. When we have run off, given up on raising carrots and tapping the sugar maples, those bugs will be swarming on water, chumming up with each other but ready to pop off temporarily if they get scared. There could be a lesson for us here, but I doubt it. Or I doubt we'll figure out what it is. Maybe it is this: run away, run away! But come right back.

Will this give us another 400 million years here?

—Bonner J. McAllester



photos by Christine Christinat

Jake Christinat (l), Justin Makuc, Kosta Casivant of Mt. Everett's robotics team maneuvering their robot

Mt. Everett High School's New Mascot May Be the Robot

On April 5, 2014, in York, Pennsylvania, Mount Everett's Higgs Bots robotic team participated in the interregional FIRST technology challenge and missed moving on to the world championships by just one place. But they wound up with the knowledge that they had done what no other local teams could hope to do: enter the qualifier in the first place. The team, including sophomore Justin Makuc of Monterey, has now not only won the state challenge two years in a row but also moved to the next level. The Higgs Bots would have had a chance to move forward if one of the teams before them in line to go to the world championships had dropped out—but none did. So the team will have to wait for next year.

The small, rural background of the Higgs Bots team means their robot doesn't always have the gimmicks nor crew size of larger teams. The robot they built for the FIRST competition this year was built with a toolkit and very little else, and their team is small: just nine members including officers. But their mechanical ingenuity has largely allowed them to trump opponents of better-funded robotics programs and significantly larger teams.

However, an integral part of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competition is that each team competes in alliances of two or more members. The Higgs Bots, for the most part, could do little about their pairings. Their downfall was not a fault of their own but of their poor partners. In the playoff for world championships, the Higgs Bots beat out their opponent, the Virginia state champions. Yet the Higgs Bots' alliance lost because the other two teams in their alliance lost. As Max Lowenstein, Higgs Bots' junior co-captain, put it, "We got really bad luck with who we were paired with."

Yet the team isn't done. Its members intend to return next year and further their winning streak. "Every year we have gone further than the year before," Lowenstein added. "I think that's a trend we plan to continue. Next year we will try to go to the world championships."

—Joseph Makuc

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"Garden Gustation"
What's Cooking from Monterey Gardens and Farms

Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary *states: "the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste"*

Good Grief . . . What's coming up? What's Left?

Well, I hope that by the time you are reading this the temperature has warmed up some. It's been a chilly spring. A few warmish days and then back to winter! I've started my tomato and pepper seeds, but they seem a bit skeptical too. I even gave them the heating pad treatment to encourage their germination. Good grief!!!

The signs of spring, despite the chilly start, are appearing more every day. The chives seem to have grown about 8 inches in the last two weeks, and the rhubarb is beginning to break through the soil with the much condensed version of what will come. There are some greens in the hoop house (at least until the voles discover them), and the garlic is poking through the leaf mulch piled on them last fall.

So, what do you have left from last summer's garden? We are still working our way through canned goods, onions, garlic, beets, and CARROTS. We tried a new (to us) variety last year that has really been worth its weight in . . . ORANGE! Bolero is the name and it gave us some meaty, sweet carrots that have kept very well. They are now thinking about sprouting and returning to the earth, but I keep trying to come up with ways to use them up before donating them to the compost heap.

Looking for a way to use up those last, maybe a bit compromised, carrots? Try out these custards. If your carrots are still sweet, you may be able to cut the sugar some. Enjoy!

Cinnamon and Brown Sugar Carrot Custards

Here's a way to get carrots into those who don't care for them and to use them up from the coffers. I believe this recipe came from an old *Better Homes and Garden* magazine. Underlined ingredients are ours or local.

1½ cups diced carrots
2 eggs
⅓ cup brown sugar
¼ cup High Lawn Farm milk
½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. ginger
whipped cream (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease four 6–8 oz. ramekins or custard cups; place in a 13 x 9 baking pan. Set aside.

2. Place diced carrots in a medium saucepan; cover with water. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 20–25 minutes or until very tender. Drain, rinse with cold water and drain again.

3. Place carrots in a food processor. Cover and process about 20 seconds or until smooth. Add eggs, brown sugar, milk, cinnamon, and ginger; cover and process until smooth.

4. Divide carrot mixture evenly among ramekins. Pour enough hot water into the baking pan to reach halfway up sides of ramekins. Bake for 30–35 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. If desired (who wouldn't), serve with whipped cream. Eat warm or chilled. Chill within 2 hours.

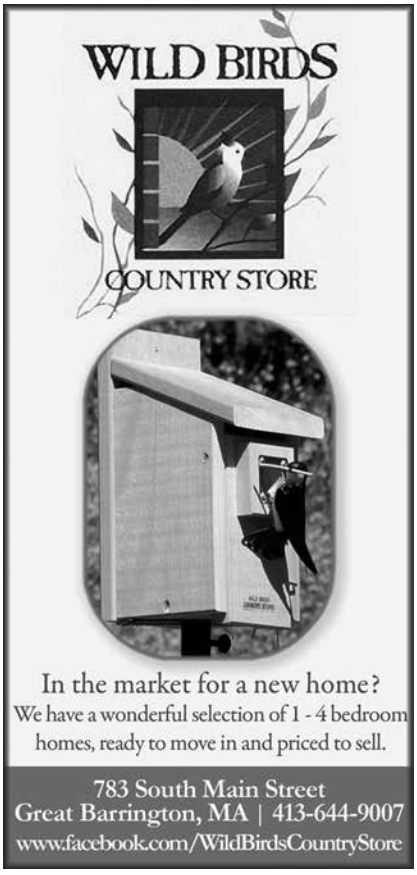
Thanks to Rosemary for last month's Gustation. Anyone else interested in sharing a recipe or story here? Please let me know.

Hope its warmer and greener when I write next time!

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

Otis Arts Festival Call for Artists

The Otis Cultural Council is calling for artists to take part in the Otis Arts Festival, which will be held indoors at Farmington River Elementary School on Saturday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For application, go to www.townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil, or the Otis Town Hall. For further info, call 413-269-4674.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One Last Dessert Party
Remembering Debby Rankin

In the late spring of 1974, a few months after their wedding, my parents found the house on New Marlborough Road. The story goes that they just happened to be driving around the Berkshires when they noticed a "for sale" sign at the bottom of a long, steep driveway. They were so taken by the place that a few moments later they were cleaning mouse droppings out of the kitchen. Certain details: the garage at the bottom of the driveway and the conspicuously wide turn-around at the top—wide enough for a snowplow—did not register until that first winter.

At the time, Mom and Dad were renting an apartment in Manhattan, and like so many others, looking to escape. Mom was a journalist, which gave her the freedom to work from home. As often as possible, home was Monterey.

They spent their weekends fixing up the long-empty house. A wooden sign went up at the bottom of the driveway: "Heald-Rankin." They learned how to sail on Lake Garfield, planted a garden, and struck up a close friendship with Dick and Barbara Tryon. They hit their mid-thirties, and their lives felt as full as ever. But in 1978, the New York City newspapers went on strike, and at the end of a long workweek, Dad drove up on a Friday evening to find that the unexpected free time had changed Mom's perspective. Nine months later, my brother David was born. I followed in 1981.

Officially, our last names are hyphenated; my brother and I are the Rankin-Healds. But people in Monterey knew us as the "Heald-Rankins." I loved the sound, loved hearing it, its funny, upside-down quality, because it meant we were "back in the country." It meant we could wander. It meant flinging rocks into piles of manure. It meant riding our bikes to the lake. It meant catching glimpses of the impossibly tall, barefoot Bob Thieriot. Weekly visits to Mrs. Makuc at the library. Afternoons picking raspberries for the Tryons, earning a quarter a pint. It meant blowing our meager savings at the General Store on baseball cards and candy, shyly dropping our quarters into Maynard's hand, and waving at him during the Memorial Day parade when he and the other firemen passed by.

And then there were the dessert parties. Mom hatched the idea that instead of hosting a midsummer barbeque, we should have all our friends for a potluck with the strict caveat that *only desserts would be served*. I believe that Barbara Tryon named her dessert after Robert Redford. One year I must have eaten half a tray of lemon bars. Perhaps that was the year when Dougie Brown, soon to be a pilot, mesmerized us with fire. I distinctly remember a crowd of sugar-charged children holding sparklers in our backyard, awaiting the flame.

The most important things in life, I learned in Monterey. I learned how to read. How to swim. How to wake up, on a cold, rainy morning, and be grateful. I learned where syrup comes from, and milk, and goat cheese, and that lightning will tear up a tree from its roots.

In 1992, we moved out west. The hardest thing to leave behind was the house on New Marlborough Road. Last spring, at the end of a book tour, I knocked on the Tryons' door. At first Dick didn't recognize me and thought I was a student, looking for donations, but soon I was sitting by the fire, chatting with him and Barbara, petting their golden retriever. I made sure to pick up a pint of Roger's maple syrup before continuing south. As I was leaving, I phoned Mom to let her know that none of the really important things had changed, that Monterey was still the Monterey of her memories.

"Next time," she said, "let's go back together."

I'm writing these words on a copy of Microsoft Word that my childhood friend Lizzy Hoogs gave me. Lizzy is now Liz, and is married and lives in Seattle, where she works for Microsoft. Her sister Rebecca, also in Seattle, is a celebrated poet, as is Lucy Ives, our next-door neighbor from long ago. We are all still children of Monterey, holding sparklers, awaiting the flame.

Mom, I know it's not what you had in mind, but here we are, going back together.

* * *

The following originally appeared in *The Oregonian*:

Deborah Marie Rankin passed away at home in Portland, OR on April 10, 2014, one week after being diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Born in New York City, Debby began her career at The Associated Press, covered the 1968 riots during the Democratic National Convention, and was the first woman to write for AP's business section. Specializing in personal finance, she became a columnist for the *New York Times*, and in 1996 authored a book called *Investing on Your Own*.

Whether living in Bronxville, NY, Monterey, MA, or in Portland, OR, where her family settled in 1992, Debby made (and kept) friends. She is survived by her husband, Lawrence Heald; her sons, David and Michael Heald; her sister, Carol Rankin; her mother, Ruth Rankin; and her corgi, Angus.

Debby's last party will be held on Friday, July 25, at the Crag Rats Hut, just south of Hood River, Oregon. Please RSVP at heald.michael@gmail.com.

—Michael Heald

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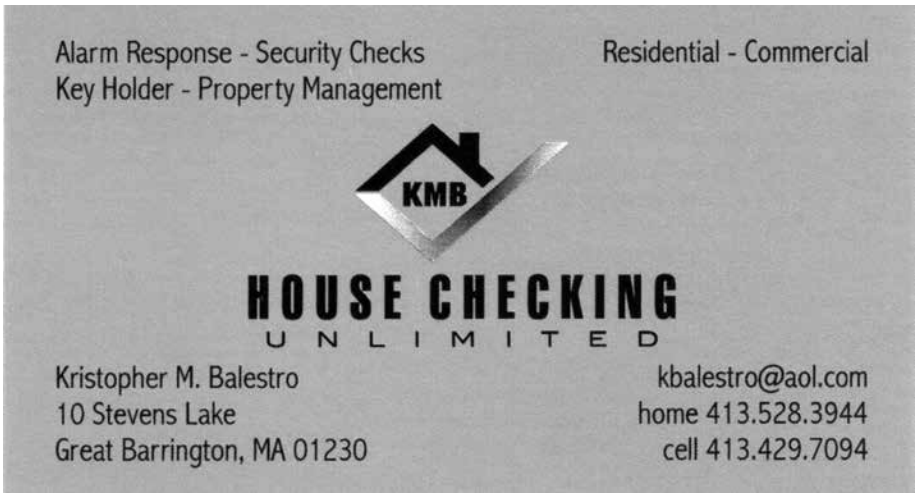

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Ron Goldfinger

Travelling beaver on Tyringham Road

Barbara Palmer

Singer/songwriter Diane Taraz returns to the Bidwell House Museum opening reception on Sunday, May 25, at 3 p.m. Diane will sing and perform her "Songs from the American Revolution" on guitar and lap dulcimer. All are invited.

Wildlife in April

In April we had the latest spring in the world around here, but the salamanders finally traveled to their natal pools for spawning. Now we can watch those egg clumps and then see little black babies in the water. Here we saw them cross Main Road east of town on a wet Earth Day evening, headed for the pond at Cora Baker's place.

Back in March, Suzanne Sawyer saw the bald eagle back in Hartsville on the river, also a hawk in the woods near her yard and turkeys under the feeder. By April first, her bluebirds were back, and her feeder has drawn chickadees, grackles, finches both purple and house, cardinals, doves, red-winged blackbirds, titmice, jays, woodpeckers, and just lately the rose-breasted nuthatches. Another returnee has been "Bob," the stubby tailed chipmunk, who was sleeping since last fall.

In mid-April Sharon Rosenberg had a pair of red-winged blackbirds in the bushes by the Konkapot behind her house. They came for seeds on the ground under her feeder.

Around the same time, April 14, Liz Goodman saw a porcupine on Tyringham Rd. and got a distant photo. Also Ron Goldfinger took a picture of a young beaver on the same road, probably headed out into the world to find a new home. Adults with new kits in the pond send their older offspring away about this time, so the home pond doesn't run out of food supply. The young adults go make a new pond and lodge somewhere else and can be seen far from open water during this "rite of passage" or growing-up time.

Will Marsh reports that a female cardinal with unusual gray coloration has been attacking her reflected image in the windows of his office for the last few weeks, making it hard for him to focus on work (a good excuse, that one).

Near the end of March, Steve and Sally Pullen watched a mink on the snowy bank of the Konkapot across from the Post Office. They saw it "romping up and down" the bank and going under a snowy rock and out again; it finally came onto the ice and headed up toward the bridge.

We've been focused on the smaller creatures this month, but I did see middle-sized moose tracks on Dodd Road in Sandisfield just last week.

Thank you for sending along all your wild sightings.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 bmca@berkshire.net

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C.G. Jung

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9–10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Park Commission.

Every Wednesday: Christian Meditation Group, Pittsfield. To learn more, call Val Latona, 413-528-3512.

Friday, May 2: Opening reception for *Paula Shalan Ceramics: Shades of Black*, 6–7:30 p.m., Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 12.

Saturday, May 3: Annual Town Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Monterey Firehouse.

Tuesday, May 6: Town Election, Monterey Firehouse. Polls open 12–7 p.m.

Thursday, May 8: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Visiting Nurses Assoc., 2–3 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, May 17:

Monterey 2020 Community Conversations continue; 10 a.m.–noon, Monterey Town Hall. Everyone welcome.

"Meditation for Stress Reduction," talk by Andrew Vidich, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library. See p. 12.

Volunteers needed to help with Bidwell House grounds cleanup, 9 a.m. on. Refreshments served. Call 528-6888.

Lenox Contradance. Live music live music by Nor'easter: Cedar Stanistreet fiddle, Max Newman guitar/mandolin, Julie Vallimont keyboards; calling by Jon Greene; dancing 8 to 11:30. All welcome; new dancers come at 8; all dances walked through. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St, www.lenoxcontradance.org, 413-528-4007.

Monday, May 19: Monterey book group will discuss *Their Eyes were watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

Wednesday, May 21: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. See p. 6.

Sunday, May 25: Bidwell House Concert and Opening Reception: Diane Taraz performs "Songs from the American Revolution," 3 p.m., Bidwell House Museum, Art School Rd.

Monday, May 26: Memorial Day; Town Hall, Library closed.

Ceremony honoring veterans, 11:00 a.m., Veterans Memorial Park.

Parade through town followed by refreshments at firehouse pavilion, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 29: Introductory training session for Bidwell House Museum guides, 11 a.m. Call 528-6888.

Saturday, May 31:

Monterey Community Garden Plant Sale and Raffle, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Community Center, corner of Main and New Marlborough Roads. See p. 14.

Artist talk by potter Paula Shalan about her exhibit in Knox Gallery, 10 a.m., Monterey Library Knox Gallery. See p. 12.

The Observer
March 26 – April 25

High temp. (4/13)	75º
Low temp. (3/27)	12°
Avg. high temp.	52.7°
Avg. low temp.	27.5°
Avg. temp.	40.1°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	4.77 in.
Snowfall	2.4 in.

Precipitation occurred on 16 days.

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Note extended Tuesday hours!

Monday	7–9 p.m.
Tuesday	9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday	2–5 p.m.
Thursday	4–6 p.m.
Friday	4–8 p.m.
Saturday	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
	7–9 p.m.

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Contributions from local and guest artists this month: Rachel Arnow, 15; Maureen Banner, 4, 5, 14, 22, 26; George Emmons, 18; Bonner McAllester, 20.

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